

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OIC-02 SS-15 NSC-05
L-03 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 /103 W
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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2058
INFO US MISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 358

CONFIDENTIAL YAOUNDE 2289

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLAB, ILO
SUBJ: ILO-63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE(ILC)

REF: (A) STATE 121552,(B) STATE 102699,(C) STATE 104945
(D) STATE 103404,(E) YAOUNDE 2290

1. EMBASSY FACED WITH PROBLEM OF ABSENCE OF APPROPRIATE GURC PERSONNEL TO WHOM TO MAKE DEMARCHE ON ILO. DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AT PARIS CIEC TALKS AND HIS DEPUTY AT NEW YORK LOS CONFERENCE. FOREIGN MINISTER HAS INDICATED HE WISHED SEE ME AND REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT HAS BEEN MADE, BUT TO DATE NO RESPONSE RECEIVED.

2. IN VIEW APPROACHING DEPARTURE OF DELEGATION, I REQUESTED AND REDEIVED APPOINTMENT WITH HENRY FOSSUNG, CHIEF OF SERVICE OF UN SPECIALIZED INSTITUTIONS IN FOREIGN MINISTRY (HE HAS ALSO BEEN ABSENT ON LEAVE). FOSSUNG RECEIVED ME MAY 25 AND I HANDED HIM SIX PAGE NOTE BASED ON REFTELS B,C, AND. I ENCOURAGED HIM TO READ IT AND ASK ANY QUESTIONS HE MIGHT HAVE, BUT HE PREFERRED ENGAGE IN GENERAL DISCUSSION. SO, I STRESSED OUR DESIRE REMAIN IN ORGANIZATION IF WE COULD GET IT TO CONCENTRATE ON INTERNATIONAL LABOR MATTERS AND LEAVE POLITICAL ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION UNDER ESTABLISHED PROCEUDRES BY APPROPRIATE UN

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BODY IN NEW YORK (UNGA, SECURITY COUNCIL, ECOSOC, TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL, ETC.). I ADDED PARENTHETICALLY THAT THIS ALSO BASIC PROBLEM WITH OTHER SPECIALIZED AGENCIES SUCH AS UNESCO-- THEY SHOULD STICK TO THEIR TECHNICAL AREAS OF COMPETENCE AND LEAVE POLITICAL ISSUES TO UN ITSELF. HE AGREED. ALL CRITICAL CONFERENCE ISSUES WERE COVERED. HE MADE NO COMMENT, EXCEPT TO NOTE THAT HE THOUGHT THAT ISRAELI RESOLUTION WAS A DEAD ISSUE. I

REPLIED THAT USG HOPED IT REMAINED SO.

3. FOSSUNG ASKED WHAT PERCENTAGE ILO BUDGET WAS PROVIDED BY US AND I AGREED PROVIDE FIGURE. MAY 26 I TELEPHONED FOSSUNG TO PROVIDE FIGURE OF 25 PERCENT US BUDGETARY CONTRIBUTION ILO. HE SAID THAT HE HAD READ NOTE AND HE SAID HE HAD SUMMARIZED THREE MAIN POINTS FOR MINISTER: A) ABANDON ISRAEL RESOLUTION COMPETELY; B) CONSIDERATION OF ARTICLE 17 BY STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE; AND C) HANDLING OF STRUCTURE QUESTION. HE INQUIRED ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE CONSULTATIONS ON STRUCTURE AND WHETHER OR NOT CAMEROON WOULD BE CONSULTED. I REPLIED THAT I WAS NOT AWARE OF THE MANNER IN WHICH THE CONSULTATIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE, BUT OUR MAIN CONCERN WAS THAT

THE CONFERENCE AVOID A POSSIBLE CONFRONTATIONAL SITUATION BY NOT GETTING BOGGED DOWN IN DISCUSSION A MATTER WHICH REQUIRED QUIET NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE SURFACING IN A GENERAL MEETING WHERE NON-NEGOTIABLE AND EXTREME POSITIONS MIGHT BE TAKEN. I SAID THAT I WOULD REQUEST A MEMBER OF US DELEGATION CONTACT HIM ON THIS SUBJECT AND ANY OTHER QUESTIONS WHICH MIGHT ARISE. HE WAS ALSO INFORMED THAT EQUAL TREATMENT IN APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS WAS CONSIDERED AN IMPORTANT POINT.

4. COMMENT: FROM TENOR OF CONVERSATIONS BELIEVE THAT GURC WILL SUPPORT US ON ISRAEL AND ARTICLE 17 AMENDMENT. THEY MAY WISH AVOID CONFRONTATIONAL SITUATION OF EQUAL TREATMENT (THEY MAY INCORRECTLY PERCEIVED THIS AS TRADE OFF ON ISRAEL), THEREBY MAINTAINING THEIR NON-ALIGNED CREDENTIALS. THEY OBVIOUSLY WISH BE CONSULTED ON STRUCTURE ISSUE. HOWEVER, IT CLEAR GURC CONCERNED ABOUT 25 PERCENT LOSS OF BUDGETARY CONTRIBUTION SHOULD US CONFIDENTIAL

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DECIDE WITHDRAW ILO. THEY WERE SIMILARLY DISTRESSED WHEN WE DID NOT PAY UNESCO ASSESSMENT. THEREFORE, WHILE IT MAY BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE FOR US OVERTLY USE OUR MONETARY CLOUT, WE SHOULD BE AWARE THAT WE DO HAVE LEVERAGE, ESPECIALLY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAT PROFIT FROM ILO PROGRAMS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT MEMBER USDEL CONTACT FOSSUNG AND GIVE HIM COMPLETE BRIEFING OUR POSITION ON CONSULTATIONS WITH RESPECT TO CHANGES IN ILO STRUCTURE. HE HAS BEEN GOOD CONTACT AND SUGGEST THAT WITHOUT COMPROMISING HIS POSITION ON DELEGATION (RELATIVELY JUNIOR, BUT ONLY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REP), HE BE USED AS POINT OF INTERFACE ON ISSUES AND WITH OTHER MEMBERS. FOSSUNG CLAIMS THAT HIS RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE TO DEAL WITH "POLITICAL" MATTERS.

6. LISTING DELEGATION MEMBERS FOLLOWS BY REFTEL E.
MITHOEFER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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